

FOR RELEASE
Monday A. M.
January 11, 1965

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The House Committee on Un-American Activities today released testimony of the Reverend James H. Robinson, Pastor Emeritus of the Presbyterian Church of the Master, New York City, Director of Operation Crossroads Africa, and a member of the National Advisory Council of the Peace Corps.

Dr. Robinson testified before the Committee in executive session on May 5, 1964. The fact that he had been associated with Communist and front organizations in the late 30's and early 40's had prompted criticism of his position with the Peace Corps and created problems relating to the operation of his African exchange program. To resolve the issue, Reverend Robinson requested and was granted an opportunity to appear before the Committee under oath to explain his prior connections with the groups in question.

Reverend Robinson testified that he was not and had never been a Communist. He stated that during the period of the thirties and forties he had believed he could collaborate with the Communists when they professed to be working for civil rights, peace, and similar goals to which he was dedicated. His views on this changed after World War II, however, when, from personal experience and observation, he realized that there are "people with ulterior motives who really end up trying to use you to make capital for their ends."

In his testimony, Reverend Robinson enumerated a number of anti-Communist activities in which he had engaged following his change of view on this matter:

When he learned that the Council on African Affairs, a Communist front, was attempting to subvert African students in the U. S. and involve them in Communist activities, he utilized the African Academy of Art and Research to offset their operations. The Academy, which he had founded in 1941, was a hospitality center in New York for African students in America.

Knowing from his own experience the type of individual harassment which awaits the overseas-bound American, he wrote a pamphlet, "Love of This Land," for the Mutual Security Agency. The express purpose of this document, published in 1956, was to fortify U. S. Government personnel serving abroad with rebuttal material when faced with hostile criticism concerning racial matters in the United States.

Dr. Robinson's principal energies are directed to his Operation Crossroads Africa, a private group founded in 1954 which sponsors student exchange programs to help the people of Africa, thus building friendship and understanding between the United States and the African nations. This program which builds and staffs schools in Africa has been challenged on numerous occasions by African communists trained in Moscow and Peking, Dr. Robinson said. The minister has met this issue squarely through careful preparation and training of his workers. "We give great attention to this whole area in Crossroads....We indicate what types of groups in the various countries of Africa might be leftwing or Communist and how they can answer them effectively and how they are going to avoid being pushed into a corner."

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